

Government that attempted to increase the revenue by an assessment on stock, which overlooked those other prolific sources of revenue. The hon. member for the South Riding (Mr. Donaldson) designated the assessment upon stock as class legislation, and no doubt it was. But even if it was not, it was a tax which had been done to them, they were quite prepared to contribute their fair share towards the Government of the country. He was sure that the hon. member (the Minister of Finance and Trade), that the Government was determined to borrow all the money they could get. († No.) No, Mr. B. Campbell. The honorable member might say No, but that was the only consideration that was in his mind. He contended if they continued in their present course they would shortly be compelled to borrow capital to pay their accumulating interest; and before they could do any more they ought to be in a position to show credit worthiness, able to give security for the interest that might accrue. The course pursued by the Government showed that they were not in that position—that they were not able to meet their obligations. He contended that the Government were coming down with a bill and asked the House to assent to the levying of a tax to the extent of 10 per cent. upon all goods imported into the colony. This did not touch upon the question of free trade or protection; and he was sure that the Government would not do that. He said that when they considered the excessive war expenditure and the enormous cost of the war, and the mechanics and labourers in the colony, his proposition could not be looked upon as savouring of protection. He contended that the Government were levying 10 per cent. all goods imported into the colony he would give it his support.

Mr. SMITH said he had been struck, by the apparent want of support which the hon. Treasurer's statement had received, and he certainly thought the reception it had met with from the hon. member for South Cumberland had taken to task the hon. Secretary for Finance and Trade, not for want of carefulness, but for the manner in which he had attempted to disclaim the proposed increase to our debt, and the fact that with regard to the colony, the colony held on account of that debt. (Hear, hear.) The debt had been incurred by the construction of two lines of railway running by navigable rivers; a fine university had been built, and an expensive plan of sewerage constructed; the drains of the city were cleared out, the sewers of the railways, the sewages, or the university—how meant by no means to disparage the efforts for obtaining good education. There was no doubt at a heavy tax lay upon the colony, but it was one which the colony must bear, and he hoped the Government would be so kind as to alluding to them as assets. He was also fully prepared to admit that, having constructed lines of railway, it might be a matter of policy to extend them so as to make them productive; but as that would involve a large expenditure, he thought it would be a searching enquiry should be made into the probable amount of traffic to be expected, and the revenue to be derived from those railways, before they were undertaken. (Hear, hear.) There was another matter regarding the debt, the interest on the loan, which the hon. land had taken the hon. Treasurer to task with the utmost propriety, namely, that of introducing an assessment, by which means the hon. Secretary directly stated his intention of supplying the deficiencies in the revenue. It was true, that the hon. Treasurer, in bringing in a measure was affirmed, but no intimation was given that conditions would be attached to the bill like those which made the bill of a previous Government objectionable. No single class of persons could be exempted from taxation, and a special taxation, even though that class possessed extraordinary privileges, and he would not agree to an assessment for one year, in order to meet the deficiency in the revenue of that year. (Hear, hear.) But they did not require the hon. Treasurer to expect to obtain by such means in order to meet the deficiency of this year. The Consolidated Revenue was estimated to amount to the sum of £7,268,398 s. 6d.; the total expenditure was estimated to exceed the revenue by £1,000,000, and the deficiency proposed was deducted from the deficit estate by the hon. Treasurer, the actual deficiency, independent of assessment, would be \$32,677; therefore that necessity by which it was sought to justify the introduction of the new assessment, was entirely removed. Thus it would appear that the hon. Colonial Treasurer proposed to appropriate the amount raised by assessment in excess of the deficiency, to pay for certain new undertakings, namely, a steam-port for Newcastle, and the extension of the railway to the north-western port of Newcastle justify the imposition of a class tax? He wished to see a proper and just tax put upon the equities, but he would never consent to the unjust and arbitrary taxation bearing upon one class in order to defray the current expenses of the Government. (Hear, hear.) He wished to know from the hon. Treasurer how far he had contrived to meet that current expenditure from the legitimate source of current revenue; and whether it had been necessary to trench upon the revenues of the Church, the landed estates, and insolvent estates? He thought the House was entitled to receive a statement upon that point. The hon. Attorney-General seemed to think lightly of the large debt under which the country laboured, and the repeated borrowing of money with much complacency to the great resources of the colony. But it appeared to him (Mr. Smith) that the Ministry should be extremely careful in increasing a debt which must be defrayed from some other resource, and that the repetition of such borrowings for any other debt must be defrayed by wasting away the energies and true resources of the country. (Hear, hear.) He believed if they adopted that principle there would not go very far wrong. He thought the Government would do well to bring remarks upon what had fallen from the honorable member for South Cumberland (Mr. Flood). That honorable gentleman objected to the proposed assessment upon stock, horses, and carriages, and also to duties upon imported goods. Such a course might be politic and prudent, but, at the same time, the House should be extremely careful when it ventured to interfere with the tariff of the country. This course would be attended with many evils, to wit:—the countenance, and had transactions in almost every kind of foreign products, and the fact that by the present tariff the market was supplied cheaply and abundantly, and that it had been a means for procuring vast trade to the colony. If the Government were to impose a duty for the sake of the City of Melbourne, should induce great caution in the Legislature when contemplating any alteration. It rested with the Government to show reason for such a course if adopted, and he would be found ready to oppose any measure of raising revenue if it did not savour of protection. At the same time, if they were in want of money, and felt inclined to go to the Custom House for revenue instead of resorting to direct taxation, he thought it would be better to fix a duty upon articles comparatively unimportant. The ad valorem system was the simplest and least expensive.

Mr. JOHN CAMPBELL: The hon. member for the South Riding (Mr. Flood) and others who sided with him had argued that the squatters might not be able to pay the tax, and why they should not? The squatters should not be taxed for the rights they held the same as every other class. The gold diggers had to pay to the revenue half-a-crown for every ounce of gold they dug, and why should not the squatters pay the same? The hon. member for the West Riding (Mr. Wilson) said the men who held runs of 80,000 or 100,000 acres, and who made large profits out of these lands, be taxed for their pre-emptive rights, say at the rate of £10 for every section of 640 acres? He would not be asked to pay anything out of the pre-emptive rights, for which the squatters paid nothing, and yet they came down to this House exclaiming that they would not be taxed. He knew something of the large fortunes that had been made by the squatters, and he knew that squatters ought to be made to pay their fair share to the taxation of the country. He was a squatter himself, and knew the profits that were made by the pursuit, and the losses that were incurred by the failure. He knew that he could well afford to pay it, and, he for one would be glad to take leave of assessment as it was in Victoria, which was much higher than was proposed in this colony. Besides, still, all, it was a mere question of the amount of the tax. If it was a moderate one, the question would, he hoped, be settled on a satisfactory basis. As for the debt of the country he considered that a more feasible. They owed less than three millions of money, and to meet these they had 350,000 acres of land, and he would say that if 800,000 acres of land had been sold for five shillings an acre, it would have produced sufficient to pay off this three millions of debt, and yet only have taken away a twenty-fourth part of the land. The land was sold for the part that was not all—if the lands were sold and im- proved, the question could be carried on to any extent, and they would then, instead of the paltry population of 300,000, which they had at present, have a population of 1,500,000. These, even, the hon. member's taxation, would produce a revenue of six millions a year, and the public establishments provided for in the present Estimates would be amply sufficient for three or four millions of population. (Laughter.) As to

money, he believed if it was the law, the system were properly arranged, it would be easy to raise any amount on fair and easy terms; nor did he see such an objection to the nature of the security as some people did. For his own part, he was by no means opposed to it, and he thought it would be a good plan to let the squatters borrow money; but, on the contrary, if they could not, he thought it would be extremely advisable for them to do so.

Mr. FLOOD rose in explanation. He was not aware that he had made any objection to an assessment on stock, and he thought that it was in the law which the assessments on stock had been made under. He might, added also that whatever the squatter had to pay he had to pay under a law, and he paid it accordingly. He thought it was a squatter had been given to him by a law, and he was his property, and he said (Ches.) What would the hon. member for the Hants say if any man were to come down with the proposal to assess that invaluable property, the wharves, the docks, the quays, the piers, the harbours, the wharfs, the last six years, and for which he had never been brought into any farming? What would he think of Government in doing that? What would he think of a bill brought in to compel him to pay a rent to the Government for the use of that invaluable property, for which he had paid nothing? He thought it would be the full as equitable as the proposal of the hon. member to tax the squatters beyond the law, and he thought their runs had been granted to them under the same law, and he thought it was a squatter's property, for which he had paid nothing. He thought it was a squatter's property, for which he had paid nothing, and he thought that he ought to be compelled to pay what he had paid for it, and he would resist the attempt to make him pay more, (Ches.)

[illegible]

MR. ROBERTSON, in answer to Mr. Hay, denied that the proposed assessment was a class tax, inasmuch as, when viewed in the proper light, it could only be so considered if the fact that the hon. gentleman frequently admitted by the squatters themselves (Hear, hear; Why should not these gentlemen be compelled to pay something like an adequate rent for the use of the land which they have occupied so long at a merely nominal price) At the same time, he did not deny that a system of *ad valorem* duties might at the present moment be very desirable; but what would become of the principle of the hon. gentleman's proposed Riding? Would it not become a general tax on the public, and if so, why should it be levied until a fair rental has been exacted from the squatters for their use of the public lands? He would not, however, dissent from the hon. gentleman to the raising of so large a loan for railways, on the ground that railways would not pay, but he (Mr. R.) would undertake to assert that, by the end of three years, the railways would be paying for the use of the railways in this colony would yield a considerable profit. The income from this source had increased during the last quarter by 160 per cent. as compared with the corresponding quarter of the year 1862, and if such was the case now what might they not expect at the end of three years? The hon. gentleman concluded his speech by denying that there was any complicity between the squatters and the position of freehold property and the proposed assessment.

After a few words in explanation from Mr. Hoy and Mr. Smith, Mr. TOOTH rose to address the committee. He said he was pleased to him that the charges which were continually being made by the hon. the Secretary for Finance and Trade, and the hon. Secretary for Lands and Public Works, were unfounded. One and all, so far as he (Mr. Tooth) was able to judge, were willing to contribute a fair sum for the lands they held, and it did seem to him that hon. members on the side of the Government were making a political capital out of the matter. (Hear, hear.) He thought they ought at least to be satisfied with a plain denial. He (Mr. Tooth) was ready to pay a fair assessment as a rent upon the stock he held, and he wished it to go forth that he, at all events, was no narrow-minded squatter — that he thought the squatters were more than ready to pay a fair assessment for the lands they held in fair proportion. The hon. gentlemen then alluded to the subject of railways. He said we had now a debt in this country of something like £2,300,000, and there was proposed to be added about £1,600,000, making a total of £4,000,000.

Mr. TOOTH continued: He believed they had no right to appropriate large sums derived from the present generation for works of an unproductive nature; he admitted, however, that it might be possible to the interest of this country to form public works of such a nature so long as they were productive. He considered that money for these great public works ought to be raised on interminable securities, and if it were not possible so to raise it, that the House should look well to the Ways and Means

before such large sums of money were expended. He was of opinion that, when the assessment question was gone into, it should be considered as a final measure for the squatters ought to know what they had to expect. They had a right, he argued, to hold the lands until required by the people, but when those lands were required for public purposes the public should step in. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. SUTTON said, he was always willing to pay liberal assessment on stock, as a matter of necessity, for a matter of right. He was astonished that the remarks which he had just heard from the other counties had made. He had repudiated the rights of squatters. (No, no.) He said that the leases were better than waste paper. (No, no.) If those were not at the disposal of the honorable member, he would like to see the squatters now held in custody, and he would like to see the assessment. He denied the fact, and challenged the honorable member to produce copies of the leases. (Mr. Robertson: "The Orders in Council.") The honorable member said that he had no copies of the leases, but the squatters paid so much less than the other landowners, why did the honorable member accept the tax from a number of gentlemen the other day, at the same rate? These stations had been years in the market, and if they were not sold, they were of no value, why did not the public tender them? The honorable member had told them, in reference to public matters, he would not be a party to breaking up a contract, and he was not seeking to break a contract with the squatters? (No, no, no.) He did not know what a contract was. The squatters did not get their stations under the Orders in Council. The Orders in Council gave them the last fourteen years' lease, and the Government was bound to repudiate their own acts, because it was the will of the Government although composed of different individuals. What would the world say if the Government repudiated their own acts? (No, no, no.) ROBERTSON: They repudiated their own acts. The honorable member said it was a rent not a tax. The Government had given the squatters leases at \$10 a year, a year they wished to increase the rent. As he had just stated, the Government was bound to repudiate its assessment, as a necessity, but at the same time, it was bound to pay the assessment. He had no objection to it if the assessment was made general, and he would like to see the Government bound to increase the squatters' rent, and he would like to see a man's rent who had taken his house for years at a certain rent. There were, however, parties in the colony who were anxious to pull down the squatters, and they were anxious to pull down the way, and be cocks of the walk. He believed the Government was distant when this would occur, although he, his party, did not fear any action of a dishonest Government.

Mr. GORDON said he thought the committee was going away from the question before them, and hoped when the hon. chairman had had more experience, he would keep hon. members a little more to the point, and not pursue discussing the Government Act, instead of the financial position of the Colonial Treasurer; he thought it would be quite time to discuss that Act when it came before the House. To return to the financial speech made by the Colonial Treasurer, he thought that he was somewhat disappointed in finding in that speech that the Government expended in the colony, which they were all to think would be the case under the present Ministry, were to be made. The hon. member had told them that £18,915 set down for the militia and artillery would not be expended, but that £18,915 removed from the colony, but that there would be saving as they were to have an increase in the number of police, which would consume the whole of that £18,915. He thought that the £18,915 that there would be not expended would be put down at £170,000, and that the hon. member was not aware of the fact that were the case, he protested against their going away, because he believed that they would be better protected by the military than an addition of police. He did not believe that they required the military, and thought they might save the whole expense, and quite safe with the police they had at present. He pointed in another part that for the defences of Sydney £1857, £100,000 had been expended. What were the hon. member's reasons for not wanting to remove the home and brought out at their own expense, were to be sent away, and these very works of defence would therefore go to rubbish and be destroyed in a few months. He did hope that the removal of these troops would have a beneficial effect on the colony, but he was entitled to increased expenditure, he should protest against the removal of these troops under these circumstances. If they were to be removed let them have an saving to the country which they were led to believe there would be. He had a statement in the statement of Ways and Means which he could not understand. The printed documents he held in his hand were clear enough, and everything explaining itself. He thought that the Colonial Treasurer's statement he would not question, but he saw an amount of £81,323 as an apparent balance in the credit of the consolidated revenue. Now, how could there be a balance £56,000 less than £797,000 to be paid to the Government for the borrowing of this £797,000, he certainly expected the hon. Treasurer would have told them what way the money was to be borrowed. This House had already sanctioned £400,000 to be raised by the Government, and he thought that £400,000 was debentured. Neither of these sums could be obtained by the Government at the present time. The Government at the present moment had the sanction of the House to borrow £700,000, and, although they could not borrow £700,000 in the present market, they came down and asked for this additional sum, and he asked what was the use of asking this. Surely it would be time enough to come down and ask for this sum when they had already expended, or rather obtained, a sum of £700,000. He thought that it was no necessity for their granting this additional £700,000, when the Government of the present day could not borrow £100,000. (Oh, oh, from Mr. Campbell.) He begged the hon. member, pardon, but he thought it was never so much as £100,000, but £100,000. If the hon. member told them plainly that he could borrow the money, he would not object to it, but let them know the nature of the security which he intended selling, and what the terms were.

to make for a loan, but until he gave them that information he should vote against any further borrowing of money. He quite agreed with the remarks that fell from the hon. member for the South Riding with regard to the whole question of telegraphs, and he said that But while he did agree with him, he was sorry that when the hon. member had the opportunity, he did not bring his theory into practice. He objected to the railway companies being allowed to make any considerable speculations, such as their railways and telegraphs appeared to be. They were told that £38,000 was sufficient for the erection of telegraphs, and that the boys were wanted to make the telegraphs, and which would be trifling, a boy at each end. What did they find now? They found that some four or five boys were engaged at the Exchange, and that there were a great many more at the stations. He asked the Commissioner of Railways, and each of these stations would require one or two boys for the purpose of paying attention to these telegraphs. He asked what was the cost of the telegraphs, and he presented them to the South Sea Head. They found that for 100 hours of attendance were from nine till five, and he contended that during those hours the flagstaff at Fort Phillip was sufficient. There had been a great deal of talk about the telegraphs, and the boys, and at various duties. He for one protested against any further taxation until they saw whether they had not the means, and ample means, for providing for the telegraphs. He said that the telegraphs were sufficient; and, until good reason was shown to

the contrary, he should protest against further taxation.

Mr. FORSTER thought the honorable member was a little complacent. He was not a wanderer from the question by debating the Assessment Act had fallen into the same error. It appeared to him, from what he had heard, that it was clearly the policy of the Government that in future the government of the country was to be carried on by assessment on public lands. To this he strongly objected. It was a gross error to suppose that the members for the three counties that the land leasehold squatters was not a freehold, and therefore the Government had a right to increase the rent. He contended that if the Government had a right to tax a leasehold for the public good, they had as much right to tax a freehold in case of urgent necessity. He contended that the Government had a right to increase the rent, but he had a right also to raise the nominal rent, which by a fiction of law all freeholders were supposed to pay to the Queen, who in law was the only holder of property. To increase this assessment would be a direct interference with property made sacred by deed.

whereas if they imposed a property tax then the lands of the equator, which was a property, would be equally liable with all else. He agreed very much with what had fallen from the hon. member for Bathurst, who conceived that the payment of an assessment had from the beginning been a surrender of principle. Now if the Government had made out any case, if they had come to the House and told hon. members that the country was in difficulties, that they were hampered up by the debts that had been accumulated by former Governments; if they had said

that they wanted no more than sufficient to meet their liabilities which pressed upon them, but which they had not contracted, then they might with some advantage have placed before the House this proposal to increase the assessment fee, and had asked the House to authorize them to borrow and contract a loan to meet those liabilities. I thought that the time had now come when it was the duty of that House to put a stop to all works that were not thoroughly reproductive; but it was not easy to find a simple way, and, although I thought it productive at present would yield a small return to the country if not carried on, at all events, as far as was proposed by the Government. At present he inclined to endorse the opinions that had been expressed, and go farther with loans than they had reached, and to authorize the Government to borrow ought not to be higher than was absolutely necessary to carry on with, and certainly not so high as to reach the *lra* balance.

the subject of the assessment should be made known to the House, and the question, though so very much talked about, was greatly misunderstood and misrepresented. Under the Orders of Council, and under whatever terms the House might please, the lessors and squatters were clearly liable to be assessed by the House of the Parliament of the country might think fit to do so. This was an opinion that he had no right in giving. He could not understand how, under the Orders of Council, the House could have said, this could be a question of principle, and the House had a lease on certain conditions; and if the lease was valid and binding, then these conditions must be equally so. Then, what were the conditions under the Orders of Council? They were, that according to a certain fixed rate, clear of any assessment tax or rate, and not to interfere with any assessment the legislature might consider it advisable to make. He thought it could be clearer than those who were in this order. Thus, then, the House, when the assessment were introduced into the House, should consider that he had a perfect right to vote upon the principle of the bill, and his only consideration was, whether it was proper that the House should have the right to the squatters themselves, and to the conditions of the lease, and to the rate, and to the conditions of the lease. Having said this much, he would add that he did not think that the bill brought forward at that time was such an one as the Orders of Council contemplated. He thought that the addition to the rent, and, therefore, a violation of leases, for it proposed that so much should be paid for the stock actually depasturing, but for the number of sheep, was a very bad carrying. He thought the bill would be introduced this session, but he could not support it. At the same time, that was brought in as a portion of the Land Bill was perfectly fair, and so considering he had last session supported the bill, he would support the bill. He thought it could be only as a portion of a land scheme, when whole question could be considered and adjusted. He scarcely wished to enter upon the general question of the bill, for the ideas had not been rendered more clear, either by the House or by the Government. He thought, however, that he saw an apparent balance down, but this was in reality a balance on the wrong side, one that left them a fictitious credit on paper, and which plunged them deeper into debt than they were before.

Mr. WILLIAMSON had listened with wary attention to the address of the hon. Treasurer, though he had sometimes lost him, yet with the paper laid on the table he was able to get a pretty clear idea of the substance of the speech. He appeared to him to be rather satisfactory than otherwise. The document showed a balance of £22,000 revenue over expenditure; and by the time they had gone through the Estimates he hoped to see even a greater balance. He had seen the Estimates for the year 1860, £50,000 or £100,000; and regretted that the Supplementary Estimates had slipped through their fingers with some papers of the Estimates themselves, all of which he had been unable to recover. Even without this he trusted that by the end of the year they would be able to cut down sufficient to bring expenditure of the year entirely within the revenue without having any recourse to a loan. Coming to the question of the proposed loan, he looked upon them with some feeling of satisfaction. He was in favour of the loan upon the Ways and Means, but entertained a similar view to that expressed by the hon. member for South Cumberland, that they should well consider the consequences of the loan. He was not in favour of refusal to borrow unless they saw some clear prospect of paying. It was expected that £114,000 would be raised from the proposed assessment, and it was not unlikely that the Government would be able to get between man and man. Last spoken had very clearly defined the law as stood; but it seemed to be entirely lost sight of if the assessment first came to be imposed. When the Government proposed to take the country into their own hands, chiefly for the protection of the squatters themselves from the native tribes. Now, however, the time was changed, and the squatters must take it upon themselves to protect their own country and their own time. At first the assessment was applied merely to police protection; now it was required for police, roads, for commissioners of Crown Lands, and for other outgoings that were formerly paid out of the Government's purse. Now they were asked to pay more than they had formerly, it was no more than in proportion to the advanced value of the land they held. Holding these views, he could not but think that the Government were right in what they thought to be imposed for some time to come. In five years, as it would be unjust to the squatters to increase the amount for one year only. It should be fixed then for a term, or until the squatter ceased to be a tenant of the Government, or until it was probable state of the revenue for the next year might think it unnecessary to go into that question if the subject of an additional tax came before the House for consideration. For his own part he thought that the Government had no right to require the squatters to alter. He thought that the Government might alter tax anything, if they kept the tax when of fixed permanent upon the articles so taxed. And even if they altered the tax on the articles so taxed, no matter what it would be, it would be its proper value. If the Government kept altering the tariff from year to year they would disorganise trade and in that way inflict great injury upon the country. He was in favour of the railways, he thought they would like to see railways constructed all over the country if they could find the necessary funds to carry on the work. But it was unjust to those portions of the country who reaped no benefit or advantages from the railways, if it was to be at the expense of the maintenance of the general revenue of the country, but that they should be allowed to step in to carry on the railways from which they derived the benefit. He thought it was truly remarkable that by the hon. member for the Hamlets, the Government, that the inhabitants of Campbelltown and the residents along that line were greatly benefited by the railway from the greatly increased value of the land, and that the Government should require the people should pay a corresponding amount towards the expenses of the railways.

Mr. GEORGE MAULEY had no hesitation saying that the squatters had not the slightest objection to the assessment and fair proportion of the money raised from money-lenders was to be devoted to local purposes. The squatters living in the unsettled districts, beyond the boundaries, received no benefit whatever from the government expenditure on the roads, bridges, no churches or schools established or maintained through Government aid, and no assistance speaking of afforded them in any way; whereas the money was expended on the side of the boundaries. This was the district which he complained of. He would venture to say that individual squatter could be found who would complain of an assessment being levied on their stock, but he would not say that a proportion of the money so raised was devoted to local purposes. And he had himself stated, when an assessment bill was previously before the House, that the money was expended on the side of the boundaries, given that a fair proportion of the money raised would be so devoted. When the first bill for the establishment of a police force expired, the next bill introduced was one for levying assessment for that purpose, and he had referred to that bill beyond the boundaries. That bill had not expired when the Orders in Council were framed and came into effect. It was clear from that that the money was expended on the side of the boundaries. He had referred to that bill for local purposes only. And said before, that the squatters had no objection to an assessment if a portion of the money raised was expended for local purposes. He hoped, whenever the House was called upon to consider the bill, that the Government would do justice to the squatters, take special care that a clause be introduced to secure the expenditure amongst the squatters of a just proportion of the funds raised from

Mr. OWEN did not intend to address the House were it not for the observation of the hon. member who had just sat down, as to the right the speaker had to look for the expenditure of the money among them for local purposes. It appeared, however, that no mention was made in the Act as to the manner in which the funds raised were to be applied. What was the position of the Government? They were told that

there was a alarming deficiency in the public fund and to supply that deficiency it was clear that the Government must resort to some measure. The Government in this dilemma must choose the policy by a tax upon trade, which would, in probability, injure the whole trade of the colony. They must look to raise it from those proprietors and farmers of the country who for a long time past had reaped great advantages, at very little cost, that source the whole country looked, and the Government had acted wisely and well for having proposed assessment on stock to the amount set down in the bill. The country of the position he was quite convinced would be hailed with satisfaction by the whole country. (Hear, hear.) With regard to the roads of railways, and which had received such attention during that debate, he must say, that the Government had not been invidious in making the colony more alive to the necessity of railways than was; but in the present state of the finances of

country it must be well considered whether fur
loans ought to be raised for continuing these fur
trading posts, and for the purpose of constructing
railways, and although they had un-
tunately been laid down in bad places, yet in or-
der that these people they must incur further out-
lay. The country came, had they the means of
backing back before, but also the means of
money they had borrowed, and the
interest due hereon, would have to be
upon the general revenue of the country. It was
not a question of the fur traders under the
circumstances could be done to their living
tance from the railways, without expending
upon the improvement of the roads and bridges of
interior. The country which he had the honour to
represent had had in the past, and it was
might be said that anything that benefited Sy-
must benefit the interior; but if so it was to a
limited extent indeed. But if loans were raised
for the construction of railways, and those loans were
towards to be done for the benefit of the people of
interior, who would have to bear their proportion
the expense of work which in no way benefited the
fur traders, he would refer him to speak further on
particular points. That was the object of the
scheme, and with reference to the assessment on
he must say that he cordially approved of the pro-
posal. (Hear, hear.) With reference to further
that was the object which he hoped would receive
consideration from the House.

Mr. TAYLOR said that with regard to the
fur he believed they were quite willing to
assess the moderate extent. What
squatters feared and objected to was
amount of assessment would be levied upon
they would be squatted an unprofitable pursuit. (Hear,
hear.) He hoped this would not be the case, for
the fur traders were the main support of the
wealth of the colony. Their wool and tallow were
great staple exports of the country, and without
posts they could have no imports. In fixing the am-
ount of assessment, hon. members must not fix according
to the amount of the fur trade, but to the amount
afford to pay; but it must be fixed at a point that
enable the distant squatter, located in favourable
of the country, to pay. With regard to railways

Mr. ROBERTSON, who spoke previously, rose again to make statements of several replies to what he succeeded him.

Mr. ROTTON said that, not being conversant in financial matters, he had not intended to take part in the debate of the evening; but, a point having arisen which he felt it his duty to discuss, he came forward from offering an opinion upon the matter. He referred to railway extension. Some hon. gentlemen expressed opposition to the policy of extension,

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given night premiums; and now pass
 the question, with severity, to the
 House for action on discussion, great care be-
 taken that, whilst obtaining a reasonable claim on
 the more fortunate squatters, no injustice be
 done to the poorer class. Mr. G. said that he
 for King and Georgians a right, when reading
 Orders in Council, he believed him to say that
 Assent was given to try an experiment at the
 time; but for himself (Mr. G.) he had been
 the impression that an Assent could only be le-
 gal for local purposes, and that the first Assent
 was given for the purpose of the purchase of
 he had understood that when the police were paid,
 the Assent was withdrawn. But it seemed
 the squatters were a much more liberal class than
 the poor men, and he was glad to hear that they
 expressed their willingness to be taxed. Un-
 der these circumstances, the House must

them, taking care, at the same time, that they did not do injustice to those who were not in a position to be heard. The hon. member for the Estimates came under the consideration of House, hon. members would have a due regard to the economy in all branches of the administration, and he would lend his assistance to any expenditure down.

Mr. DALLRY observed that in offering a few words to the House on the present occasion he did not at any great confidence. The financial statement of the Government, he thought, being received by the hon. member for the Estimates, he would meet him hereafter every known. Even the hon. member South Cumberland must have been favourably disposed towards it, for he (Mr. Dalry) could not help thinking that the Government were doing very well in the factory to that honorable member, or he would have found higher ground for opposition than he had stated. He would now address himself to one or two of the questions which had been brought forward, and he would first take up the assessment on stock, in reference to which he would make a passing observation. He hardly thought necessary, however, on this occasion to raise the question of the assessment on the paper and shop, as he had previously done so, and he would now turn to an assessment, for six weeks had past, and he had previously been occupied in trying to arrive at some conclusion on that point, and if the whole public did know the bearings of the question the fault would not be his. He would now turn to the question with regard to the proposal to impose an assessment for a limited period of twelve months, he felt inclined to sympathize with honorable members on both sides of the House, and he would now turn to the question referred to an argument adduced by the honorable Secretary for Lands and Public Works as having taken place between Mr. Archibald Boyd on the one hand

He thought that argument was in support of having assessment merely. But if alterations in the rate assessment were allowed, the transfer of such property would be very materially interfered with by perpetually changing the terms on which those properties were held. At land sales also very great inconvenience would thereby frequently be occasioned. With regard to the competency of the House to move in the matter

his experiments of legislation had induced him to believe that any Parliament could do what it liked, and that House was competent to deal with anything. The Ministry chose to introduce; but if any member were to oppose, the members were to be taken upon to do the House could not know. It was a pecuniary (Hear, hear.) That House was competent to deal with such a matter as any House could have, and as far as he could discover, the country shared in his opinion. He had a very few words to say in support of the Government. He was not used to indulge in jeremiads, although it was so common to do so. He thought that the money thus spent had been applied in the most erroneous calculations; but in order to render that expenditure still available it was necessary to make a loan of £1,000,000, and the large sums appropriated for that purpose were thrown away, or would it afford sufficient inducements to it to make railways profitable, compensate the country for the enormous expenditure? He should support the expenditure for the extension of railways, and would warn those gentlemen who were not well acquainted with the progress of Estimates through Parliament, that they should recollect that though the votes which they would be called upon to assent to were for the extension of railways, and that would probably have a very good reason for every item. One hon. Secretary would tell them the resources of the country would be crippled by the exact amount for which he asked were considered. He would then say the economy had been exercised to the utmost; therefore, the Government must not place too much reliance in any of considerably reduced expenditure. He had been induced to offer those few remarks in order to show that he was not a man who would speak upon the occasion of a financial statement before the House.

Mr. R. CAMPBELL replied, recapitulating each of the leading facts set forth in his speech, pointing out that the Government was not a party to the loan, generally understood to be a financial statement, but much as the items in his Ways and Means differed, very slightly from those in the Ways and Means of the previous year, he was not at all sure that the opposite it would appear that the fault he had proposed was with the fact that it should not have been made at all, and no new matters, seeing that they formed a part of the financial scheme of both the Parker and the present Ministry. It might be that the assessment was not so well timed, but that was a question of detail, and could easily be rectified in committee. With reference to Customs, he thought there should be no addition to that department until a revision of the tariff had been made. The question of loans, however, was a case under consideration, and he was not prepared to confess that he was an advocate for interminable ventures, but not in the way in which they were being conducted. He was a member for the South Riding of Scotland.

In answer to a question by Mr. SMITH, Mr. R. CAMPBELL said that the Government were not to issue the Trust Money, which amounted to the £1,500,000, until the 31st March, to be paid to the Treasury.

In answer to Mr. DONALDSON,

Mr. R. CAMPBELL said the Government was prepared, when the proposal for sanctioning the proposed Committee of Experts, to state in the House the reasons for the measure, made in which they intended to raise the money.

Mr. FLOOD defended the observations he made in the earlier part of the evening. He denied the arguments he had used for an *ad valorem* duty, and said that the legitimate means of increasing the revenue were by levying a tax on the consumption of goods.

He believed, and he thought it was generally on all classes of the people than any other a proper tax, which he thought it would most unwise to institute now.

The resolutions were put and passed, "a sum of £2383 10s. be granted out of the consolidated fund for the service of the year 1858."

The House then resumed, and the chairman read the resolutions, and obtained leave to sit again Wednesday next.

The resolutions were then put from the chair, and adopted.

POSTPONEMENTS.

The second reading of the Main Roads Bill, second reading of the Municipalities Bill; the second reading of the Government Amendment Bill, consideration of the Government Amendment Bill, the motion of Mr. Jenkins for the printing of the notice in reference to the establishment of a Constabulary at Tamworth, were postponed until to-morrow (this day).

CENTRAL POLICE OFFICE.

Mr. DALEY moved,—"That the address be sent to the Governor-General, praying that his excellency will be pleased to cause to be laid on the table of this House copies of the following correspondence with reference to the remuneration received, and the position occupied by the following persons:—The Police Officer, 1. Letter from Colonial Secretary, Police Magistrate, dated 12th December, 1897. Reply of Police Magistrate to the same, dated 20th December, 1897. 3. The Police Magistrate, Sydney to the Colonial Secretary, dated 16th February, 1898. 4. The Police Magistrate, Sydney to the Colonial Secretary, dated 19th February, 1898, with enclosure."

Mr. MOTTON moved,—"That an address be presented to the Hon. Colonial Secretary, praying that the Excellency will be pleased to cause to be laid on the table of this House, copies of any correspondence which may have taken place between the Hon. Colonial Secretary and the Postmaster-General with reference to an alleged irregularity in the issue of the Hon. Colonial Secretary's letter, in which he had been induced to take the Hon. member's word for the truth of the statement contained in a paper in consequence of the unsatisfactory nature of the reply of the Colonial Secretary to a question referred to the subject on the previous evening. The object, he stated, was not so much to make complete satisfaction to the House, as to provide a remedy for the future, and that the honorable member might have the opportunity of answering their letters by return of post."

Mr. COWPER said there was only one document

reference to the subject, which there was no objection to lay upon the table.

The motion was put and passed.

The House adjourned at 15 minutes to 12 on 9 o'clock to-morrow (this day).

NEW NOTICES OF MOTION.

THURSDAY, APRIL 5.

MR. LORR to move, That an Address be presented to the Governor, praying that he would be pleased to cause to be laid upon the table of this House, copies of the last Oration of the population of the Pastoral, Districts of Walla and Blaine.

MR. KRAMER to ask the Honorable the Secretary for Land, Water, whether the Government have received any Report from the surveyor sent to him for ascertaining the extent of the Klama, for the purpose of ascertaining the best mode of reclamation of the same.

MR. LORR to move, That the Report of the Surveyor be considered each Report with a view of carrying out its recommendations.

FRIDAY, APRIL 9.

[illegible]

all claim thereto, if he does not pay for the same upon or prior to the expiration of the said term of seven years. 8. That in the event of more than one application being received by the said post for the purchase of any allotment or allotments, such applications shall be opened by the said Government on the said days at the latest for sale by tender. 9. That the Government may advertise for sale, both in the Sydney and local journals, and shall cause to be exhibited in Sydney and in the respective localities, maps of all lands surveyed for sale, for at least ten days prior to the date upon which applications are to be received for the purchase of such lands. 10. That all lands, not acquired

